

OCTOBER 2024 | FILM AND MEDIA CULTURE | MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE



Behind the Scenes: Cinematography Field Trip to Studio Lab's VR Wonderland

On a beautiful October evening, our Cinematography class ventured out to Studio Lab in Derry, NH, for an insider's look at a top-notch Virtual Reality production facility during their industry night. Students toured impressive studios, state-of-the-art recording spaces, and high-tech edit suites where the magic of filmmaking comes alive. The highlight? A sneak peek at the massive portable LED screen, recently used in a gin commercial. This innovative screen acts like a green screen, motion-tracking with the camera and adapting in real-time to perfectly match the creator's vision. We wrapped up the night with a garden BBQ, mingling with studio professionals from diverse backgrounds and departments, deepening our understanding of the industry roles.



Hirschfield Presents: Emilia Pérez

November 7



6pm Reception
7pm Screening

go/hirschfield/

We're thrilled to welcome you back for another unforgettable film night! The film is set to be released on Netflix on November 13, but we are proud to offer a special advance screening of the film on **November 7, at 7:00pm** in **Dana Auditorium**. Trust us, this is one you will want to see on the big screen!

This French musical crime comedy, starring Selena Gomez, tells the story of a Mexican lawyer helping a notorious cartel boss fulfill a long-held desire to transition into living as a woman.

Get ready for a cozy **reception** starting at **6pm** with a wide variety of foods and treats for you to enjoy before the screening! Following the film, there will be a discussion led by **Professor Christian Keathley**.

Do not miss another chance to win one of **four \$25 declining balance prizes!** Just grab your ticket at the door before the screening, and be sure to stick around post-screening when we announce the lucky winners.



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Our last screening, *Only the River Flows*, drew an impressive crowd of 90 attendees! Four raffle winners went home with prizes, and Professor Nikolina Dobрева led a vibrant post-screening discussion that had everyone talking.



Post-Hirschfield Screening Discussion,
Dana Auditorium

Special Screening: *Reality Frictions* with Steve Anderson

On the final Tuesday of October, Professor Jason Mittell hosted an engaging screening of *Reality Frictions*, a new feature-length video essay by filmmaker and scholar Steve Anderson from UCLA. *Reality Frictions* dives deep into the intersections of fact and fiction on Hollywood screens, spotlighting those moments when real-world images, people, or events intrude upon cinematic narratives. In a time of generative AI and synthetic imaging—when distinguishing real from fake grows increasingly challenging—*Reality Frictions* offers a compelling exploration of how audiences have long developed sophisticated ways to navigate the blend of reality and illusion in media. Richly illustrated with clips from over 100 films and shows, this video essay is both an entertaining and thought-provoking investigation into media's role in shaping truth and history.

Guest Speaker Spotlight: David Bloch

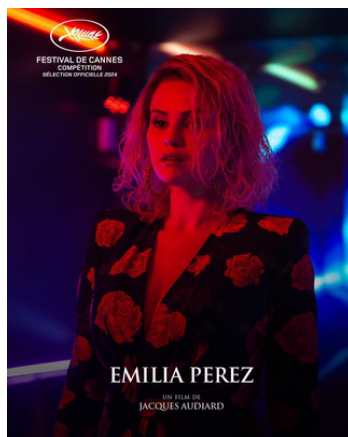
This month, our Media Curation and Exhibition students had the incredible opportunity to engage with Middlebury alum David Bloch '86, a film marketing expert whose clients include Netflix, Amazon, A24, and Universal. David did campaigns for *Brokeback Mountain* and *Chicago* among others.

In class, David shared his expertise on acclaimed writer-director Jacques Audiard, using this quote from NY Times to describe his work:

"Audiard's entire oeuvre can be seen as a means of imaginatively aligning himself, as well as the viewer, with the outsider". Besides focusing on *The Outsider* as a key theme in Audiard's films, David provided analysis of his movies as great examples of films where fantasy meets social realism.

"On one level, it's entertaining; on another, it's artistically and socially relevant. It satisfies many different tastes by operating on multiple planes", says David about *Dheepan*.

David's insights set the perfect stage for our next Hirschfield Screening of *Emilia Pérez*, as we dive deeper into Audiard's creative world with our upcoming event.



Movement Matters Series: A Creative Journey with Jillian Meyers

This October, we teamed up with the Dance Department to dive into the fundamentals of choreography for the camera, guided by Emmy-nominated LA-based choreographer Jillian Meyers during her week-long residency. Students explored the powerful blend of movement and cinematography, creating a piece with Jillian that culminated in a captivating presentation on Friday, November 2nd. Jillian, an assistant to renowned choreographers like Brian Friedman, Tovarís Wilson, and Mia Michaels, also worked with Mandy Moore on the award-winning *La La Land*. Both Jillian and Moore received Emmy nominations for their work on Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist. It was a privilege for both Dance and FMMC majors to learn from and connect with such an inspiring industry expert!



Jillian shows students how the camera interacts with their movement in the Dance Studio

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What's Next in FMMC?***Inside the Marketing of a Major Motion Picture with David Bloch '86*****November 6th @ CCI Conference Room
4:30pm**

Join us as David Bloch '86 shares an exclusive look into the marketing strategy behind *Emilia Pérez*, a major Oscar contender. David will dive into the creative power behind careers, publicity, and advertising that drive hit films. This event includes a preview of the student-led campaign for *Emilia Pérez*'s advance screening at Dana on November 7th, one week before its Netflix premiere! David will also discuss evolving trends in the entertainment industry, with insights from his work on *Stranger Things*, *The Crown*, *Squid Game*, and *Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio*. A Q&A session will follow.

***Hirschfield Series presents:
Emilia Pérez by Jacques Audiard*****November 7th @ Dana Auditorium
6pm Reception + Raffle
7pm Screening****Guess the Movie: Round 1!**

Think you're a movie buff? Put your film knowledge to the test with this **quiz and win a fun prize from the FMMC department!**

Here's this month's line: "You talkin' to me? You talkin' to me? Then who the hell else are you talkin' to?"

Do you know the movie? DM your answer to our Instagram page
@middfilmandmedia

**@MIDDFILMANDMEDIA**

For details and updates on what treats we have prepared for this screening, follow our official Instagram page @middfilmandmedia or scan the QR code on the left!